

Village of Los Lunas



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Volume 8 Number 7

February 2005

Merillat to Bring 700 Manufacturing Jobs to LL

National cabinet maker Merillat Industries Inc. plans to break ground in Los Morros Business Park this spring on a \$36 million 260,000 square foot manufacturing plant that will eventually employ 700 people.

The plant should be in operation by fall, 2006, and at full employment by 2007.

Jobs are expected to pay between \$22,000 and \$26,000 annually, higher than Valencia County's average annual salary of \$20,500.

The announcement of the plant was made by NM Governor Bill Richardson in December.

The plant will manufacture kitchen and bathroom cabinetry.

Plant officials said the company

became attracted to Los Lunas because of its proximity to two interstate highways, its probusiness climate, quality and availability of labor and a generous state incentive package.

Los Lunas Mayor Louis Huning said, "We at the village are very happy Merillat will be coming to Los Lunas. We are thrilled with the additional jobs for people in Valencia County and the asset that Merillat will prove in the area."

The company will build on about 50 acres in Los Morros located on NM Highway 6 west of Interstate 25.

Merillat officials plan to work with educational facilities developing a comprehensive training program.

The company has 11 plants and 4200 employees nationwide.

The proposed Merillat plant follows the announcement of medical-device maker Fresenius Medical



New Mexico Governor Bill Richardson when he spoke at the village council chambers with Merillat executives in December.

Care North American announcing the building of a 100,000 square foot distribution center in Los Morros.

Fresenius would send kidney dialysis machines to four states and employ about 40 people.

Village Wins First Place

The Village of Los Lunas has won first place in Category Five of the Governor's Community Achievement Awards for 2004, announced Joseph Lobato, executive director of New Mexico Clean and Beautiful.

The award is based upon an entity's overall involvement in cleaning up and beautifying the community.

Under the direction of Josie Navarette and Marie Marquez, the village holds several cleanups yearly and involves many citizens in regularly cleaning up the community.

The village was presented with the award at a special ceremony at the Governor's Mansion in Santa Fe the beginning of February.



Luna Hills Work Continues

With the Manzano Mountains in the background, work continues on the Luna Hills Project on the village's southwest side. The project includes storm drains and sanitary sewer on Drake, Breech and Coplen Roads.

Many Groups Make Los Lunas Cleaner

On Saturday, November 6, 11 students and four adults from the Valencia County 4-H Club cleaned a portion of NM State Highway 314 South of Main Street. The group consisted of students Grace Vickers, Alyssa Redman, Shaeley Redman, Alex Castillo, Gabriel Castillo, Katie Castillo, Laura Castillo, Emily Mechenbier, Kaitlyn Martin, Sarah Martin, and Rachel Martin. The adults supervising the group were Donna Martin, Joel Martin, Jenny Vickers and Kathy Mechenbier. Village cleanup coordinators Marie Marquez and Josie Navarrette of the Village Community Development Department provided the safety vests so that the participants could be seen. The students picked up nine giant bags of trash.

On Saturday, November 20, 11 foreign exchange students attending Los Lunas High School under the direction of Lori Sciabica cleaned South Juan Perea Road to Morris East, to South Los Lentes and North to Courthouse Road. The students were: Gabriela Santos (Brazil), KoEun Choi (Korea), Jannina Abshagen (Germany), Fai Thitisakakul (Thailand), Ploy Thansakul (Thailand), Nils Feddern (Germany), Otario Rosa (Brazil), Jose Freitas (Brazil), Sam Kim (Korea), Kor Sunpanakanit (Thailand) & Suman Bae (Korea). Ms. Jean Casey and Mark Poiles, who are hosting some of the students, also helped.

Lori Sciabiaca's goal is to have the group involved in different community projects so the students can learn about the culture as well as community involvement in the United States. Number of bags picked up November 20 was 35.

Marie Marquez provided the students with water, vests, bags and gloves. Adolph Lopez and Marie Marquez picked up the bags after the cleanup. The students worked from 9:30 to 12:00 noon..

A big thank you to the Valencia County 4-H Group and the Foreign Exchange Students and their sponsors. You guys did a great job!!

How wonderful to see the different organizations



Los Lunas High School foreign exchange students pose during their clean up job.

getting together and organizing a cleanup day in the community. It shows that they take pride in their community and wish to keep it clean and safe for all of us to enjoy.

Please call Marie Marquez or Josie Navarrette to contribute a few hours for a cleanup on any day. Many areas need cleaning. If you don't have one in mind Marie or Josie will provide you with the different areas. The number to call is 352-7658 or 839-3842.

The Village Mayor and Council express their appreciation to all the students and group leaders for their dedication to the community.

Did You Know?

Village Zoning Enforcement Officer Josie Navarrette writes a column about different aspects of the village's zoning ordinance.

According to Section 10.500 in the table of Permissible Uses, Recreational Vehicle storage is only allowed in a rear or side yard (not to be connected to utilities, used as a dwelling unit or accessory building) We realize that sometimes a resident may park it out in the driveway to get ready for camping or hunting, but this can only be allowed temporarily. Also, if you do not have a place to store your recreational vehicle due to property size or zone then you must seek an alternate place of storage, such as a commercial storage unit on which you may have to pay a monthly or yearly fee. If you have any questions pertaining to this matter or you feel someone is in violation of this municipal code, please contact Code Enforcement Officer Josie Navarrette at 839-3842.

VILLAGE OFFICIALS

Louis F. Huning **Mayor**

Councilors

Cecilia CC Castillo *Charles Griego*

Gerard Saiz *Robert Vialpando*

Municipal Judge *Jeff Aragon*

Village Administrator

Phillip Jaramillo **Master Municipal Clerk**

Chief of Police *Nick Balido*

Growth Increases GRT; Tax Rate Changes

The village has grown tremendously the last few years commercially. "Big box retailers," such as Wal-mart and Home Depot, have opened their doors. In addition smaller shops have found a niche in the community. Businesses providing services for citizens have also increased.

At right is a chart of the rise in Gross Receipts Tax passed on to the village after people shop at stores or purchase services within the village.

In calendar year 2000 the village received \$4.2 million. Since then the yearly GRT has climbed to the 2004 amount of \$7.4 million.

On January 1, 2005, the manner in which GRT is applied changed throughout the state of New Mexico.

Most food items are no longer taxed;

Residential Construction Continues

With three new subdivisions in the works in the village, more housing permits should be issued in 2005. A total of 103 permits were issued in 2004 which is less than the 12-year-average of 127 per year. Here's the number of permits per year over the last 12 years:

2004 — 103	2003 — 74	2002 — 114
2001 — 110	2000 — 71	1999 — 143
1998 — 182	1997 — 147	1996 — 145
1995 — 148	1994 — 166	1993 — 100

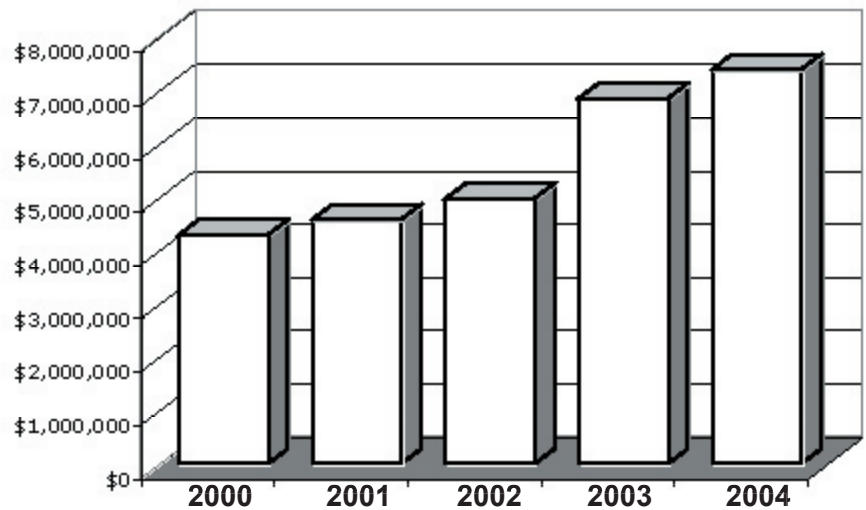
The three new major subdivision are Huning Ranch located at the northeast corner of the Luna Hill; Las Brisas off Taylor Road; and Pulte Homes near Los Cerritos. In addition, homes are still being built in many other areas of the village.

Garbage Pickup Days

The village 2005 garbage pickup days are:

HOLIDAY OBSERVED	REGULAR TRASH PICKUP DAY	WILL BE PICKED UP ON
Good Friday	Friday March 25	Thursday March 24
Memorial Day	Monday May 30	Friday May 27
Fourth of July	Monday July 4	Friday July 1
Labor Day	Monday Sept. 5	Friday Sept. 2
Columbus Day	Monday Oct. 7	Friday Oct. 7
Veterans Day	Friday Nov. 11	Thursday Nov. 10
Thanksgiving	Thursday Nov. 24	Wednesday Nov. 23
Day after Thanksgiving	Friday Nov. 25	Monday Nov. 28
Christmas		
Holiday	Monday Dec. 26	Friday Dec. 23
New Years	Monday Jan. 2	Friday Dec. 30

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however, the tax on all other merchandise, such as clothing and furniture, has increased a half-percent.

Hot foods prepared in a grocery store for immediate consumption, such as freshly baked breads or rotisserie chicken, will be taxed as will alcohol and tobacco.

Village officials have been informed that there should be no negative effects, or deficits, in the village budget due to the change in taxation.

The new GRT in Los Lunas is 7.125 percent.

You Can Join Village Wi-Fi

You can join the public access Wireless-Fidelity (Wi-Fi) system now being implemented in the village.

Wi-Fi is a wireless technology enabling computers to send and receive data indoors and outdoors, anywhere within the range of a base station.

Anyone with a wireless network card within signal range can access the Internet after signing up for the service.

You can use your wireless network card to scan for the vll-wifi service set identifier to connect to the system. Once your computer is connected to the wi-fi system you will need to open your Internet Explorer browser to sign up.

Identify Address for Safety

Placing easily-seen identification numbers on your property is something that should be done as a safety measure.

Large numbers make it much easier for emergency workers to identify a location.

Village ordinances say "owners of all properties containing buildings should number such properties at the expense of the owners with durable numerals at least three inches high in such manner and location as to be plainly visible from the street."

Infrastructure Projects Proceeding Through Village

Work on the Luna Hills project, located on the southwest side of Los Lunas, is about 30 percent complete. Phase I is complete except for the final pavement. Phase II, which included work on Coplen, Drake and Pecos, is finished except for the final roadwork. Phase 3 is started. Final completion of the project is expected in March 2006.

Work has started on the roads involved in the cooperative paving funds and is expected to be completed in June, 2005. These streets are Colonial Avenue, Cinder Lane, Mesa Cruzada, Cruzada Court, Wittwer Court, Tafoya Road, Coronado Street (east of Don Diego), Olympic Circle, and Gallahad Street.

The sewer pipe for the interceptor line on Don Pasqual has been laid and the ditch crossing finished.

Lift Station 4 in Carson Park should be completed on schedule at the end of February.

Attend A Council Meeting!

The Los Lunas Village Council meets twice a month in the council chambers in the administrative building on the corner of Don Pasqual and Main Street.

Meeting dates for the remainder of 2004 are:

February 10 & 24

March 10 & 24 April 7 & 21

May 5 & 19 June 2 & 16

July 7 & 21 August 4 & 18

September 1 & 15 October 6 & 20

November 3 & 17 December 8 & 29

Meetings begin at 6 p.m. Once in a while meetings are rescheduled so check with village officials at 839-3840 to be sure a meeting has not been changed.

The agenda will be available at least twenty-four (24) hours prior to the scheduled meeting from the bulletin board located in the lobby of the Administration Office, located at 660 Main Street, Los Lunas, NM; the Los Lunas Library located at 460 Main Street in Los Lunas, NM; and posted on the village website (address: www.loslunasnm.gov).



SAINT PATRICK'S BALLOON RALLY

STARTING AT 7 AM WEATHER PERMITTING

SATURDAY, MARCH 19 SUNDAY, MARCH 20

HERITAGE PARK 3445 LAMBROS ROAD LOS LUNAS
MUSIC, ARTS AND CRAFT, FOOD,
ENTERTAINMENT AND LOTS OF HOT AIR BALLOONS

Presented by the Valencia Flying & Retrieval Society
and the Los Lunas Parks and Recreation Department

For information call 352-3584

Come Join the Village's GREAT AMERICAN CLEANUP DAY

Saturday, April 23

7:00 AM – Noon

Village Administrative Building
Don Pasqual and Main Street

Call Marie or Josie for Details 839-3842

Or Check the Village Website

www.loslunasnm.gov

